



The Conservation Strip

John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District

2016 Annual Awards Luncheon

The John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District held its annual Awards Luncheon on December 14, at Stoneridge Events Center in Warrenton. Local citizens were recognized for their outstanding commitment to conservation throughout Fauquier County. This year's, distinguished guests included Delegate Michael Webert (VA-18), and Fauquier County Supervisor Chris Butler, (Lee District).

The luncheon began with a presentation by Tom Turner, JMSWCD Conservation Manager. Tom spoke about the internship program that the District has been involved with through Fauquier County Public Schools which provides students with experiences working in local government (see page 2 for more information).

The awards ceremony began by recognizing Kris Jarvis for 5 years of service and Tom Turner 15 years of service to the District. Jennifer Hoysa was also recognized for receiving two statewide outstanding employee awards at the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting, held December 4-6 in Roanoke. After the employee recognition, the following awards were presented to members of the community:

The **TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Conservation Farm Award** was presented to **Timothy Harr** whose farm is located in the Thumb Run watershed. He installed a stream exclusion practice which protect-

ed 4,600 feet of streambank and created 12 acres of riparian buffer. In addition, the Harr family has made their land available to the Virginia Working Landscapes program where volunteers conducted a mammal survey in 2014.

The **Conservation Farm Award** was given to **Silver Hill Farm** owned by Mr. Robert Taylor. He completed conservation practices that have excluded all streams on his property, protecting 12,100 feet of streambank. Practices include a total of 12,500 feet of stream protection fence, 2,600 feet of cross fence, 10 watering facilities and 4,900 feet of pipeline, while protecting 12.5 acres of riparian buffer. Mr. Taylor practices no-till farming and plants cover crops.

The **Conservation Farmer Award** was given to **Norman and Bonnie Bower**. Norman Bower operates a cow/calf operation on eight different rental properties. Norman has protected over 30,000 feet of streambank and over 77 acres of riparian buffer have been established as a result of his efforts. He is working with the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council, Extension, and NRCS to study stockpiling, fertilization of pastures, and other grazing practices.

The **Clean Water Farm Award** was presented to **Marriott Ranch**. Marriott Ranch has protected more stream front-

(Continued on page 3)

Winter 2017

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to provide leadership, technical assistance, information, and education to the citizens of Fauquier County in proper soil stewardship, agricultural conservation methods, and water quality protection so as to ensure the wise use of the county's natural resources.



In This Issue

- ◆ **Strategic Plan Update**
- ◆ **County Government Internship Program**
- ◆ **NRCS EQIP Deadline Approaching**

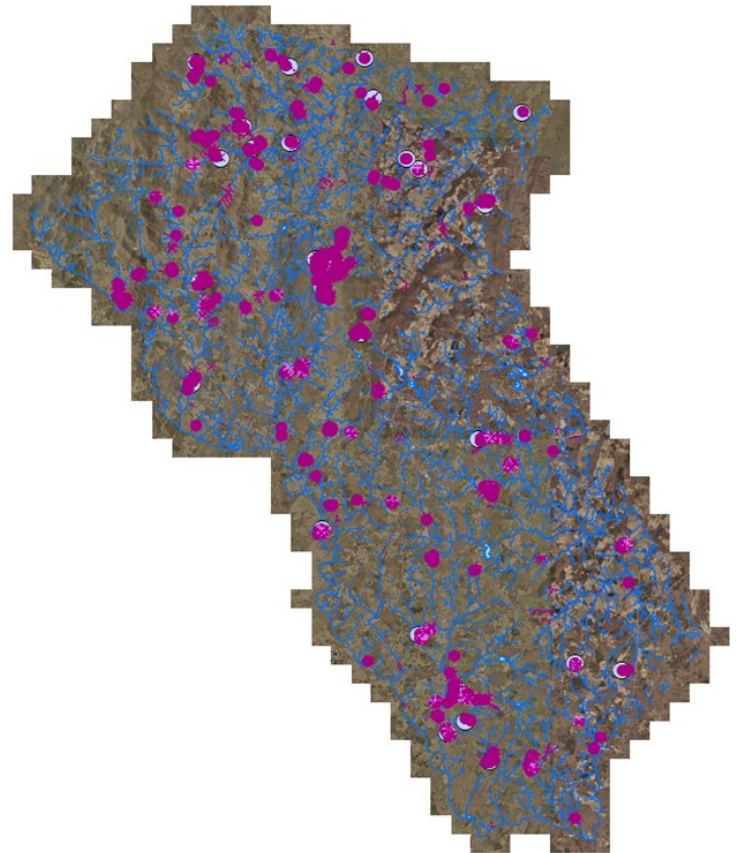
County Government Internship Program

During the past two semesters, the John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District has hosted a Fauquier County Public School senior for a class focusing on local government. The students in the class are placed in a public agency and during the semester, work to complete a project to help improve their department. Some of the other departments which have participated in this program include the Board of Supervisors Office, Environmental Services, and the Fauquier Airport.

Chasity McFadden and Cate Boulter have been the two interns who have worked for the District. Their main project was to map historical as-built livestock exclusion best management practices. The fences, troughs, pipelines, and all other practice components were drawn into our Geographic Information System (GIS) computer mapping program. This will help the District to better gauge its impact across the county and present a clearer picture of our work to outside groups.

Apart from their project, students were required to learn what their selected agency does as well as their history. They were also required to attend Board meetings, staff meetings, and review the agency's budget and finances. JMSWCD interns also helped complete field work (including landowner meetings, surveying, marking fence, etc.) and assisted with educational programs.

All of the agencies that have participated in this program have found it to be very beneficial to both the agency and the student. The agency gets extra help to complete its mission and the student gains valuable real world job experience which may include anything from learning how to answer the phones to surveying an engineered stream



ArcGIS screenshot of the work our interns have done to input as-built maps. Purple areas show all of the as-built components.

crossing for a livestock exclusion practice.

At the end of their program, students present the results of their project to a number of groups including the School Board and to the community at-large. The District hopes to continue to participate in this program in future semesters.

District Strategic Plan Update

The John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District is still in the process of updating our Strategic Plan. This plan is updated every four years and it lays out the direction that the District will take over that course of time.

The District is asking everyone to fill out this very short 5-minute survey about your District experiences. The link can be found here: https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_02FAehvAjY3EbSI. If you would like a paper copy,

please contact the District and we can arrange to get you one.

Everyone is being asked to complete this survey; whether you are a regular cost-share participant, educational program participant, or have never participated in a District program. If you should have any questions, please contact the District.

2015 Annual Awards Luncheon Continued

(Continued from page 1)

age on the main-stem of the Rappahannock River and Fiery Run than any individual participant in the history of JMSWCD. Over the course of the last several years they have built 45,800 feet (8.7 miles) of fence, 12,000 feet of pipeline, two wells, three spring developments, 16 watering facilities, and eight stream crossings. This has resulted in the protection of more than 14 miles of stream bank and 210 acres of riparian buffer. They have also been a steady partner for many other organizations working on various conservation programs.

The **Conservation Contractor Award** was presented to **Johnny Wright, Earth & Turf LLC**. In the past two years, Johnny Wright of Earth and Turf LLC has worked with landowners in Fauquier County to install livestock exclusion practices which have created 24 acres of riparian buffer and protected over 18,000 feet of stream bank. These practices included stream crossings which enhance rotational grazing and alternative water systems for livestock. Much of this was done under challenging conditions with complex soils and steep slopes requiring extensive rock removal and grading to achieve the necessary on-site drainage.

The **Conservation Partner Award** was given to **Tammy Hockensmith** - Information Technology Department, Fauquier County. Tammy is a Web Systems Analyst with Fauquier County Information Technology Department who has provided computer support services to the District for over 15 years. Tammy has always been quick to respond to District requests. She has been very helpful over the years in sending out e-notifications and assisting the District with the purchase of our own domain name. She continues to provide professional and timely assistance and training.

The **Edwin F. Gulick Conservation Educator Award** was given to **Patricia Colot**. Pat has been teaching for 26 years. For the past 16, she has been a 7th grade teacher at Taylor Middle School. Since Pat has been at Taylor, over 2,300 students have visited the Messick Dairy Farm to learn about agriculture and natural resources. Her students participate in interdisciplinary activities, to incorporate all areas of study into the wrap up of the field days.

Additional pictures of the Awards Luncheon are available on the John Marshall SWCD Facebook page.



The John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District recognized (from left to right) Pat Colot, Robert Taylor, Winkie Crigler Harr, Norman Bower, Johnny Wright, and Tammy Hockensmith (Not Pictured: Marriott Ranch).

John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District

98 Alexandria Pike, Suite 31
Warrenton, VA 20186
(540) 347-3120 x3
johnmarshall.swcd@vaswcd.org

www.johnmarshallswcd.com

Hours: 7:30 am-4:30 pm
Monday-Friday

District Directors

A. Gray Coyner, Chairman
Deirdre Clark, Sec./Treas.
John Schied
Mary Lou Trimble
Tim Mize

Associate Directors

John Bauserman
Howard Grove
Patricia Johnson
Michael Webert

Honorary Directors

Henry Green

JMSWCD Staff

District Manager
Jennifer R. Hoysa
Conservation Manager
Tom Turner
Conservation Specialist
Larry Dunn
Conservation Specialist
Claire Hilsen
Conservation Specialist
Kris Jarvis
Conservation Education Specialist
Michael Trop

NRCS Staff

District Conservationist
Roger Flint
Soil Conservationist
Casey James

Volume 34, No. 3

NRCS EQIP Deadline Approaching

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) deadline to sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is February 17, 2017.

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. Key Resource Concerns include **soil erosion** (sheet, rill, wind, and excessive bank erosion from streams), **water quality** (excess quantities of nutrients in surface and ground waters, pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio solids or compost applications, sediment in surface waters), **livestock production** (limited or inadequate), **degraded plant condition** (undesirable plant productivity and

health or inadequate structure and composition) and **fish/wildlife habitat degradation**.

Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, and other farm lands. Payments are made to participants after conservation practices are implemented.

For more information or to apply for EQIP, contact Roger Flint (540-316-6511 or Casey James (540-316-6518).



Calendar of Events

January 2		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
January 4	11:00 AM	JMSWCD Personnel Committee Mtg.	JMSWCD Office
January 11	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office
January 13		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
January 16		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
February 8	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office
February 20		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
March 8	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office
March 9	9:00 AM	Contractor/Landscaper Workshop	Warrenton Visitor Center

Staying Connected: The John Marshall SWCD makes it easy to stay connected through social media. If you're on Facebook, "Like" our page to get updates on what's happening at the District.



The Conservation Strip is a quarterly publication of the John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District. To be added to our email list, please send an email to Jennifer Hoysa at: jennifer.hoysa@fauquiercounty.gov.

All programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status.